



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

TEMPLE, TEXAS, DECEMBER 14, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2005 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program will have competitive grant funds to provide access to education, training and health care resources for people in rural America.

“Texas communities can benefit from the opportunities provided by the distance learning and telemedicine program. This grant will help ensure that rural Texans have the access to modern technology and telemedicine services,” said Daniel.

Distance learning and telemedicine grants are specifically designed to provide access to education, training and health care resources for people in rural America. Funds may be used to provide distance learning or telemedicine services to residents or entities in rural areas. Incorporated organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes, state, or local governments are eligible to apply in rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less.

The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than February 1, 2005, and will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. For more information, on the distance learning and telemedicine program for 2005, please contact Francisco Valentin, Jr., Community Programs Director, (254) 742-9789 or visit the website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rus/telecom>.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to help enhance the quality of life and increase economic opportunities for the nation’s rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact any USDA Service Center or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

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